



April 8, 2025

Dear Chair Hawj and Members of the Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee:

Metro Cities, representing the shared interests of cities across the metropolitan area, appreciates the opportunity to comment on SF 2077 (Hawj), as amended by the A4 Amendment. Metro Cities supports several provisions in this bill.

In the seven-county metropolitan area, regional parks essentially serve as state parks, and the state should continue to provide capital funding for the acquisition, development, and improvement of these parks in a manner that is equitable with funding for state parks. Metro Cities supports state funding for regional parks and trails that is fair, creates a balance of investment across the state, and meets the needs of the region. Metro Cities appreciates and supports the base general fund appropriation and slightly increased lottery-in-lieu funding for metropolitan regional parks and trails operation and maintenance.

Urban forests are an essential local infrastructure component. Metro Cities appreciates the investments made by the legislature in the last several years for tree planting and emerald ash borer mitigation. Metro Cities supports this bill's \$800,000 appropriation for grants to local and Tribal governments to enhance community forest ecosystem health and sustainability (via the ReLeaf Program).

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Lund'.

Mike Lund
Government Relations Specialist
Metro Cities